



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, 4th District

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COUNTY SHOULD ADMINISTER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EQUALLY

County Board to vote on study for domestic partner benefits Thursday

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic released the following statement in advance of Thursday's County Board consideration of a resolution to study extending domestic partner benefits to Milwaukee County employees:

"Milwaukee County needs this study to determine if there is a low-cost way to treat all Milwaukee County employees fairly. I hope my colleagues will support a study to promote equality and improve the health of families in Milwaukee County. The Personnel Committee has recommended this study be performed with existing staff.

"Last week, one of my colleagues on the County Board issued a statement on this matter that was full of false numbers. This Supervisor stated that it is 'incredibly irresponsible to propose new spending that would increase county operating expenses by nearly 4 million a year.' I do not know where this false number originated. The truth is the County already picks up the cost when Milwaukee County employees get married and/or have children.

"The Federal government, the State of Wisconsin, the City of Milwaukee, MPS and MATC all grant benefits to domestic partners. Milwaukee County should grant that same level of equality. At the City, only 30 employees enrolled a partner, resulting in a .2 % increase in the employee benefits budget. In fact, the majority of those enrolled at the City have heterosexual partners.

"Some believe County government should operate more like a business. In this case, a majority of the nation's leading corporations do provide domestic partner benefits. I believe Milwaukee County should provide the same courtesy to all employees."

The item will be considered at the County Board meeting scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 5th in Room 200 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

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